

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital; Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland; Russia Broadens Assault To Western Ukraine; Biden Approves \$200 Million In Defense Aid For Ukraine; Russian Assault On Key Ukraine Cities Intensifies; Russian Airstrike On Western Ukraine Base Kills 35; Russia Asked China For Military Help; Interview With Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL); C.D.C. Reports Overdose Deaths Increasing Each Year; Countering The Rise Of Mexican Drug Cartels; Iran Claims Missile Strikes In Erbil, Iraq; Biden Weakening U.S. With Foreign Energy Dependence

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Body

MARK LEVIN, FOX NEWS HOST: We need to provide the Ukrainians with everything they need in a rational and prudential way to defend themselves and their country.

I'll see you next time on LIFE, LIBERTY & LEVIN.

STEVE HILTON, FOX NEWS HOST: Breaking tonight: Officials in Mariupol, southern Ukraine report over 2,000 residents are now dead as Russian forces intensify their assault with a much high number of civilian casualties right across the country.

Good evening, everyone. Welcome to THE NEXT REVOLUTION.

In a moment, a live report from the war zone. But also tonight, we will focus on the war right here on our streets, on our border, as the U.S. civilian death toll reaches 100,000, as millions pour across the southern border and the Biden regime comes under fire for not doing enough to save lives here.

Americans dying at the rate of over 10,000 a month, poisoned by China enabled by Mexico, and unbelievably incentivized by the White House, which still refuses to close the Southern border. And in fact, is trying to reduce, yes reduce, the penalties for smuggling deadly fentanyl.

Much more on those American deaths later in the show.

But as the first known American dies in Putin's war, a journalist shot and killed by Russian forces in Ukraine, we start tonight with the latest developments there.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

Russian troops now closing in on the Ukrainian capital city of Kyiv, a Russian missile attack hit a Ukrainian military base less than 10 miles from NATO's border as the Russians declare that arms convoys are now quote "legitimate targets for attack."

Putin reportedly has jailed his own head of foreign intelligence and now brings in the bloodthirsty Chechen leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, with a chilling echo of Putin's past atrocities.

Standing by tonight with the latest reporting and analysis are Greg Palkot, General Jack Keane and Congressman Michael Waltz.

But first let's start with Greg Palkot who is live on the ground in Lviv with the latest -- Greg.

GREG PALKOT, FOX NEWS CHANNEL SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT: Hi, Steve. Yes, it is early Monday morning here in Lviv and just about 40 minutes ago, we heard about five minutes' worth of air raid sirens, don't know what that was all about, but we heard the same sort of thing on Sunday morning here and there was a major attack not too far from here.

Take a look at what we saw and what we heard.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PALKOT: We're here in a western Ukrainian town on Novoiavorivsk early this morning and just about two miles behind us was the deadly Russian missile strike, which had the military base there.

It is a place that American Special Forces and Florida National Guard were at last month, and we are also just 10 miles down the road from NATO ally Poland.

Thirty Russian missiles were fired, eight hit their mark, turning the military training center into a scene of death and destruction. Thirty five people were killed, 134 injured. Locals told us they couldn't believe it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE (through translator): We woke up to the bombings, we saw the flash of lights, the huge missiles and explosions.

PALKOT (voice over): Ukrainian military has been trained by the U.S. there. Now reportedly, foreigners are coming to learn combat, and it's a hub for military aid entering Ukraine. Plus, it's next to a main route for refugees fleeing the Russian invasion, all reasons for the site to be hit by Vladimir Putin and area residents to hate him.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He is killer. Killer. And all the violence must stop Putin.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

PALKOT (on camera): We heard a lot of that hatred, Steve, when we were on the ground there.

Pentagon spokesman, John Kirby said that no U.S. service members were injured or killed in the attack. National Security adviser Jake Sullivan says however, if one of those missiles had gone astray, had landed in Poland, a NATO ally, the North Atlantic Alliance could trigger Article V and that means even bigger trouble than we're in right now.

A few other points to cover here, Steve, for you. As you mentioned, underscoring the dangers to all the people here on the ground. Fifty-year-old, award-winning American journalist, Brent Renaud was killed Sunday. He was shot by Russian forces as he was in a car going through a checkpoint in a suburb -- Kyiv suburb of Irpin, another American journalist was also injured with him.

Mariupol as you mentioned, 400,000 residents remain stranded there. Russian forces are tightening their siege like grip on the place. Officials say yes, something like 2,200 people have died as water, food, electricity, you name it, has been cut off. And a convoy supposedly trying to get in there, tomorrow, we will see.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

And the occupied city of Kherson, saw a protest against Russian troops on Sunday, hundreds of very brave citizens coming out chanting in the streets and the Russian forces firing from the armored personnel carriers, one of dozens of brave displays we've been seeing here in our time on the ground here, Steve, v very brave and you've got to have a lot of hope for these people who were standing up to a very strong Russian military force.

Back to you.

HILTON: Absolutely great. Thank you so much. Absolutely stunning details and pictures there. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

All right, let's bring in our first guests now tonight, FOX News senior strategic analyst, retired four-star U.S. Army General Jack Keane. General, it seems to me that pretty much every day we're seeing some new developments suggesting that instead of taking steps to deter Putin, we are letting him know that he can deter us. But I'm not a military expert. That's why we have you here. What do you think?

GEN. JACK KEANE (RET), FOX NEWS CHANNEL SENIOR STRATEGIC ANALYST: You put your finger on something, Steve, for sure because that's been a pattern of behavior here for some time. I mean, going back to 2021, when Putin put 70,000 troops on Ukraine border, we had a shipment going in there that same month, March and April, that was scheduled from the Trump administration of arms and ammunition, and the Biden administration delayed it to August.

And then when they showed up in the fall after the Afghanistan fiasco, with 170,000 troops, we delayed another shipment and the stated reason for delaying both shipments, well, we did not want to provoke Putin into attacking.

I mean, it is -- it's outrageous what happens to this administration. It is the same thing, Steve that happened with the Obama administration. They get paralyzed by the fear adverse consequence. And in this case, it's escalation. And that is a fearsome term to them.

And instead of meeting that and doing what we should be doing to assist the Ukrainians, being all in should be what we're doing and we should not let Putin drive escalation, we drive it ourselves. And we certainly should not let Putin get inside of our head and he is inside of our head. That has a lot to do with the MiG 29 deal and why those airplanes are not now in the hands of the Ukrainians, because we let Putin impose his will on us and it is shameful, but it is characteristic of the administration.

HILTON: And it is also characteristic of the opposite of what we were promised, which is, these are the experienced people, the adults in the room, they know how these things work.

The shambles of that whole story around the MiGs this week was really shocking and embarrassing for America, but just on the point of escalation, I mean, exactly to your point, it seems that this attack on that facility so close to the NATO border specifically is targeting it seems those supply lines and sending a message, as well as the words they used that we are now going to consider arms suppliers, arms convoys legitimate targets.

They are trying to deter us from what we're doing even -- I know you've said it's not enough -- but they're trying to stop -- the Russians are trying to stop us even doing that, supplying the arms.

KEANE: Yes, that attack was all about the message being sent to the United States and allies on the resupply routes that we are running primarily out of Poland, it's not exclusively, and the motorized convoy routes, bringing those supplies into the Ukrainians, yes, and they're being organized in Poland and we've got U.S. military involved in a lot of that -- in doing all of that and it is working. That's the good thing.

And they certainly know that and they are finally getting around to the realization that they have got to do something about it. Listen, the Russians are back on their heels here for two plus weeks, despite the progress they've made every inch they have had the fight for, and they are certainly recognizing the correlation between NATO resupply and the Ukrainians, and the Ukrainians' persistent fight that they're putting up are highly related to each other.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital; Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

And we will likely see some interdiction of those convoys. Those convoys are being run by Ukrainians. The U.S. are not moving over into Ukraine to assist with the convoys. They are doing everything on the NATO side of it.

HILTON: So final question, very quickly, General, what do you make of this report that that Chechen leader has been seen, if you'd like encouraged -- I think the reporting was that he was there with the Russian military, urging them to have faith and keep the fight going and he has got a terrible record of brutality. What do you make of that report?

KEANE: Well, I think it is another reflection of the desperation that Putin is starting to feel. From what I understand from some really good sources, there were a number of days when he was not getting accurate reports about the failings and the casualties, but he started to get that now, and suddenly he has some real concerns.

He is bringing in Syrians to do some fighting and he has got the Wagner Group renamed Liga. He is bringing obviously Chechen leaders and Chechen fighters into it.

But none of that in my judgement is going to be decisive.

I mean, it may provide him some comfort here and it certainly will add to the fight, but it is his army that has to perform. And certainly, they have demonstrated, Steve, that they are poorly led, they are poorly trained, they lack sufficient discipline, and that's the reality.

They have got huge logistics challenges. Despite all of that, though, let's face what's happening, they are strangling most of all the major cities in Ukraine, and getting closer every single day. They are cutting Ukraine off from the sea in the south, but I think they're going to have a 10-foot tall experience trying to take Kyiv.

We've been watching them very close, the Institute for the Study of War, they finally got on the outskirts of the city, but they have got to fight their way all the way down against two mechanized brigades that the Ukrainians have there, they're going to fight them tooth and nail, it's going to be a heck of a challenge for them just encircle that city and bring all their artillery to bear.

It remains to be seen what's going to happen here, but I know, the Ukrainian is going to give it everything they've got and they've been working on, certainly reinforcing the city, Steve, now for two plus weeks.

HILTON: Yes, but they've been given this time by the Russians being bogged down.

General Jack Keane, well, I know you'll be watching it and hopefully we'll get your insight and analysis on whatever happens in the week ahead. We really appreciate you joining us tonight. Thank you.

All right, joining me now, former Green Beret and policy adviser to the White House and Pentagon, Florida Congressman Mike Waltz.

Mike, let's just start with the story I saw today that caught my eye. This is about the -- it is a sort of more detailed and fuller version of something we've been talking about, which is the connection between Russia and China on this, which is a huge factor in how we think about it strategically, and a report that is -- we've heard before that the Russians, that Putin specifically that Xi Jinping asked Putin to wait until after the Olympics.

And so this suggests an even closer level of coordination. The Russians asking, specifically the Chinese regime for military assistance, economic assistance, and we don't yet know of any response from the Chinese regime.

What do you make of what's going on there?

REP. MIKE WALTZ (R-FL): Yes. Well, I think the big picture, we are seeing an alignment of the world's autocracies, the world's dictatorships are presenting a united front -- Russia, China -- both are involved in the negotiations with Iran, unbelievably, with the Russians as the intermediary.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

North Korea who just launched yet another -- yet another strategic ballistic missile, and all of them even aligned and starting to align with the Taliban super state, the terrorist super state that is in Afghanistan now.

So big picture. This is incredibly concerning.

In the sense of China supporting Russia, we've seen them obviously doing it diplomatically at both the U.N. and on the world stage in terms of their propaganda and the information wars. Economically, they are absolutely serving as a backdoor to the sanctions. And even when, for example, Visa, Mastercard, American Express pulled out of Russia, Chinese banks have stepped in.

The question is, what will they do militarily? What will the Chinese do militarily? Jake Sullivan is going to meet with a senior Politburo member responsible for Chinese Foreign Affairs. And let me just ask, and I hope he's listening what he shouldn't do is be lectured to by the Chinese Communist Party, like they were in Alaska on U.S. soil, share Intelligence like they did, that the Chinese then shared with the Russians.

And what we need to do is to stop taking this passive reactive approach, as General Keane was saying, we have to be prepared to escalate to force Russia and China to de-escalate. And right now, we haven't seen the White House willing to do that, and when you create that space, particularly when it comes to WMD, when you're not clear about exactly what the consequences are going to be and draw very clear red lines, Putin and Xi will continue to eat your lunch.

HILTON: So we don't have too much time. It's a long discussion, but just a very quick response, I'm going to address this later, there are people who are -- you hear a lot of this week that Zelenskyy should take the deal that Putin has offered, we need to offer Putin an off ramp that allows him to claim victory at home and that's the way out of this. What do you make of that?

WALTZ: Yes, I don't think Putin has ever been serious about negotiations. At this point, his grip on power depends on victory here. I do think Zelenskyy has made somewhat of a concession in saying he is rethinking NATO, but that's not enough for Putin.

He wants at least the Black Sea, Kyiv, a change in government and the eastern part of Ukraine at a minimum and he is all in. What we need to be doing is to quit dithering and wringing our hands, provide them the MiGs, provide them the S-300 Russian air defense systems and provide them a lot more arms than what we are doing.

We've been slow walking it, and it's just not enough of what we are giving the Ukrainians. And if they can bog Russia down into a quagmire, meanwhile, their economy is collapsing, we need to help the Ukrainians fight for themselves, not push them into the old saying of he's going to die on his feet rather than survive on his knees and I think that's a heroic approach that we absolutely should support.

HILTON: All right, Congressman Mike Waltz, great to see you tonight. Thanks so much.

Straight ahead, the war on our streets and at the Southern border. Tom Homan is here live after the break.

HILTON: Of course, we mustn't turn away from the horror being unleashed by Putin's war on Ukraine, but it seems the establishment here want to turn away from what is being unleashed on Americans by the war on our streets and on our Southern border since the Biden regime opened it.

We are witnessing a humanitarian disaster and a national security risk, and it is on an absolutely stunning scale. More than two million migrant encounters in Joe Biden's first year in office. More than 211,000 migrant encounters in the Rio Grande Valley sector alone since October the 1st, a 92 percent increase from the same time last year. That's just one sector out of nine.

And it's not just about people. Americans are dying on our streets right now in horrific numbers because of the drugs, especially fentanyl coming across the border. It is now over 100,000 Americans killed every year, more than car accidents and gun deaths combined.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

Just last week, six spring breakers including five West Point cadets overdosed on fentanyl-laced cocaine in South Florida leaving one hospitalized in critical condition and who is behind the fentanyl? China. Who is facilitating its production and smuggling? Mexico.

It is a war. Xi Jinping runs an authoritarian police state. He could stop all this with a snap of his fat little fingers. Why aren't we sanctioning him?

In Mexico, drug cartels have completely taken over the country. Last month, investigators uncovered a cartel extermination site just a few miles from the U.S. border in Nuevo Laredo, when in a single room in a ruined house, they found countless compacted burnt human remains, nearly two feet deep, not thousands of miles away in Europe, a couple of miles away from our border, which thanks to Biden, the feeble puppet of his extremist far left activists is now wide open.

Joining us now is former acting I.C.E. Director and FOX News contributor, Tom Homan.

Tom, in the last few months, I've noticed that the Biden people are putting out a kind of story that oh, they've realizing how badly they've messed this up or even bringing back some of the Trump administration's policies, which of course, you were such a big part of implementing -- do you buy that? What are you hearing in terms of what is going on at the border? Is it as bad as it was? Getting better or even getting worse?

THOMAS HOMAN, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTOR: No, the crisis is still ongoing. And let's be clear, a couple of things they put back in place, we had to sue them to do that.

I mean, I was part of the lawsuit. I wrote affidavits for the State of Texas in the lawsuits against the Biden administration. And when we won, they appealed. When they were ordered put the remain-in-Mexico program back in place, they appealed that decision. Get that. This administration appealed the decision to secure the border.

Look, President Biden -- I've said this a thousand times I'll say it -- this the first President in the history of this nation that came into office and unsecured the border. He was handed the most secure border in this nation's history in my career, I've been on 35 years, the most secure border we ever had. He came in within weeks in and unsecured it, and we end up with a historic illegal immigration crisis.

HILTON: And all the consequences and the deaths. I mean, what do you think can happen if there is no change in this policy? We're stuck with this Biden regime, at least for another couple of years, more than that.

What's going to happen?

HOMAN: Well, you're seeing it right now. You're seeing it right now. You're talking about fentanyl, right? The D.E.A. says 95 percent of the fentanyl is coming across the Southwest border. When Joe Biden unsecured the border, and he causes half the Border Patrol agents to be taken off the line and sent to processing centers to process family units and others who want to falsely claim asylum, that's half the borders unguarded.

For instance, when the 15,000 Haitians were on the bridge in Del Rio, there wasn't a single Border Patrol agent over 224 miles of border that was unguarded for, for weeks.

In Yuma, when they had the surge there a couple of months ago, they called all the Border Patrol agents to process because they were getting overwhelmed at the processing center. Hundreds were walking across the border in Yuma into the city of Yuma. Half the border was unguarded because half the Border Patrol was no longer patrolling. That's when the cartels move the drugs. That's when they move the gang members. That's when they move known suspected terrorists, that's when they move -- that is when disease comes across, not only COVID, but TB, measles, chickenpox.

The border is out of control. It's created a public safety crisis. It's created a public health crisis. It's created a national security crisis.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

HILTON: Exactly. Now, I want you to make the comparison to the action that has been taken in relation to Putin's war on Ukraine where the Biden regime, they boast about mobilizing these unprecedented sanctions, putting pressure on a foreign government, economic war, some people have caused it.

Now, let's look at this war on our border and on our streets and the two countries that are most implicated in that.

Let's start with Mexico. What is the role would you say of the Mexican government? And this is obviously the cartels doing a lot of the people smuggling the drugs, smuggling and so on. The Mexican government, could they be doing more to stop this and what pressure could we be putting on them to act?

HOMAN: They absolutely could be doing more and that is why President Trump had great success. That's why he secured the border and a 40-year low, illegal immigration down 85 percent because he told Mexico, you will patrol your southern border, you will patrol your northern border, you will hold criminal cartels responsible or I'll sanction you. I will tariff you.

And Mexico took him seriously, so they stepped up their game and they opened the remain-in-Mexico program, hundred percent across the board. No arguments. President Trump held them accountable.

So I won't call it sanctions, and those tariff threats and other threats he made, but do your job.

HILTON: But that's exactly right.

HOMAN: It is illegal in the country of Mexico, it is illegal in Mexico to traffic in women and children. So President Trump says, I want you to enforce your law, which will help our southern border. So he forced them to do what was right.

President Biden hasn't done a thing to ask Mexico to step up or demand they step up.

HILTON: Well, it's the opposite. He actually made it worse. He has shown he doesn't take it seriously by saying: Oh, it's all right. It is all Kamala Harris who is going to figure out the root causes.

Last question, Tom, the other part of this, the fentanyl, which is literally killing, not all of the 100,000, but a tens of thousands of Americans dying through fentanyl overdoses. China -- the connection with China and fentanyl. What do you make of that? What could we do about that?

HOMAN: Well, you certainly can't sanction the country of China, but then again, President Biden, I think he fears China, but again, like President Trump did with Mexico, he was going to call the criminal cartels in Mexico, these big multibillion dollar cartels, call them terrorist organization, which has increased funding investigative purposes, which would have sent more U.S. citizen intelligence assets, more U.S. citizen special agents, go down there and dismantle this organization from the ground up.

But again, President Biden is not doing anything about the criminal cartels, he handed criminal. He handed operational control of our southern border over to them, and as far as China, he hasn't done anything against China and I think that this President is weak. He has proven he is weak and this nation is suffering because of his weakness.

HILTON: Thank you. If we can take unprecedented action economically to help protect Ukraine, which I totally support, then the very least we could do is similar action on China and Mexico to protect Americans and our country and our streets and our border.

Tom Homan, thank you so much for joining us.

Much more up ahead. Don't go away.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital; Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

HILTON: Welcome back to our ongoing live coverage of the war on Ukraine. As we enter the third week of Putin's war, I see people calling for an off ramp for Putin. Zelenskyy should take the deal Putin has offered to stop the killing and avoid nuclear war. We have to give Putin some kind of face- saving formula he can sell as a victory.

Of course, we want the killing to stop, but it is precisely the risk of nuclear war that makes any outcome Putin can sell as a win incredibly dangerous.

It would give a greenlight to nuclear blackmail worldwide. Any country with nuclear weapons would hear a simple message. Go ahead, do what you want. The West won't stop you.

China and Taiwan, North Korea. Think about Pakistan. They want Kashmir even more than Putin wants Ukraine. Think about the renewed incentive for rogue regimes to get nuclear weapons. Iran, of course, and Venezuela right here on our doorstep, a nuclear proliferation nightmare. No. To prevent more death and destruction and danger to us here in America. Putin must lose and be seen to lose at home and abroad.

Are we really doing everything we can short of going to war ourselves to make that happen as Biden and Western leaders claim? No way. There are massive holes in the economic sanctions and no, it's not just the Europeans being unwilling to give up their addiction to Putin's energy.

As Kimberley Strassel has pointed out in "The Wall Street Journal," quote: "Sanctions won't apply to Russian banks energy transactions until June the 24th." Meaning Wall Street can continue to trade in Russian oil and gas. The White House is blocking a Republican bill that would impose real sanctions on Russia's oil, gas, mining, and mineral sectors.

The U.S. has sanctioned precisely zero -- zero -- of the key oligarchs around Putin. This is not serious. Biden's strategy seems to be economic half measures and military appeasement, it is not working.

Joining us now to react, former State Department spokesperson and Tennessee congressional candidate, Morgan Ortagus.

Morgan, your reaction to what I just laid out there?

MORGAN ORTAGUS, FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON: Well, I think you're absolutely right. I actually had an op-ed about this talking about the sanctions half measures.

I mean, listen, it is one thing to say, for example, that we are not going to buy Russian oil and gas. The problem is if you don't put secondary sanctions on that industry, then someone else just buys that. So what we see is an effort here, a lot of virtue signaling from this administration.

Every move is a virtue signal. Look, we're going to sanction banks, for example. Well, we're not sanctioning all of the banks, we're letting some, at least four or five key banks, they are not under the current sanctions regime. So therefore, people know how to get around it.

So what I see, and it's funny that you use that term half measures, that is consistently what I've said for the past few weeks as well. It is these half measures so that we can go out and give a press conference or have a tweet that sounds and looks really tough. But anybody who is actually behind the scenes know that we're not going the full way to stop them.

I mean, listen, if there's anything that we've learned is that deterrence - - the strategy that this administration pursued as it relates to Ukraine, that deterrence strategy failed, because Russia, in fact, invaded Ukraine.

We know that Jake Sullivan, it's been reported, the National Security Adviser held up lethal aid to Ukraine at least three times over the past year and this administration kept saying things like, well, if Russia invades, then we will provide said lethal aid.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

And so it was always sort of a day and a dollar short. And why does all of this matter? Well, it certainly matters in the context of Taiwan, right? China keeps making threatening moves about Taiwan and if we are learning any lessons here, it's that the strategy that the Biden team had for the past six months to deter Russia didn't work.

And so we all need to learn these lessons about arming Taiwan early and about these sanctions, half measures don't actually deter anyone, they just encourage people who are smart enough to get around them.

HILTON: Exactly right. What a great summary. And then, oh, everywhere we look, now, it seems that this kind of projection of ambivalence, weakness, and so on is just encouraging more chaos around the world. I mean, just look at -- I mean, just in the last 24 hours, what do you make of this rocket attack? This missile attack? Iran suddenly getting involved in the action.

What's going on there? That was suddenly -- that was out of the blue, and we are at the same time talking to them about a nuclear deal.

ORTAGUS: Yes, those pictures that you're showing right now, if I can see it correctly, out of the corner of my eye are not Russia and Ukraine, those pictures are coming out of Iraq in Erbil. It came -- these ballistic missiles, at least 12 of them if the media reports are accurate, it came very close to our consulate and other facilities in Erbil in Iraq, where we obviously have American civilians, military there.

So listen, some of my friends are based there right now. We were all very concerned last night when we saw the reports.

Why does all this matter? Number one, the administration tried to downplay this as much as possible. You didn't even see a statement.

Listen, American lives were threatened. We could have easily lost American diplomatic and military personnel last night in Iraq, and you didn't see a single statement from the Secretary of State, from the spokesperson. You did finally see Jake Sullivan address it today. And what did Jake Sullivan say? He said the Iran deal isn't off the table.

So you have Iran doing two things. One, they are pointing ballistic missiles at Iraq towards our facilities that could have killed Americans last night by the grace of God or maybe Iranian incompetence it didn't.

Two, Tom Rogen detailed from "The Washington Examiner," detailed this week. Did you know that Iran actively, right now, as we're all watching the show has an assassination plot attempt out on Mike Pompeo, Brian Hook, the Iran Envoy and John Bolton.

You don't have to agree with their politics or even their foreign policy to know that a sovereign nation should not threaten former Cabinet members from the last administration, threaten them to the degree that these gentlemen still have to have diplomatic security, which obviously normally isn't authorized.

So we are begging and pleading by the way, guess who our intermediary is for the Iran deal that we're begging and pleading to get back in to with the group who is responsible for the picture that you can see just last night? The Russians.

So on one hand this administration is Russia is bad, it's terrible, but they are letting them negotiate on our behalf. And if they're that bad, why are they negotiating for us? And why are they hitting us with ballistic missiles and threatening to kill former Cabinet members? It is asinine.

HILTON: It's amazing. It's just -- I know.

ORTAGUS: It's incompetent.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

HILTON: Great word. I love that word. It's so true. And it's just that you know, it's like the whole strategy seems to be sort of running around the world trying not to offend anyone, absolutely hopeless. Morgan Ortagus, great to see you as always.

We'll be back after this short break.

HILTON: The Biden regime's energy response to Putin's war on Ukraine has become a completely demented fiasco, you know the details. Europe is dependent on Russian oil and gas. If we were serious about stopping Putin, we'd impose a worldwide embargo on Russian energy, which is not some sacrifice Americans need to make because we could in fact replace much of Russian energy with American energy. But Biden won't do that, because he is too scared of the extremist climate zealots who now run his party.

But look what this tells us about Biden and the Democrats about their character, who they really are. They have a chance to help American workers, many of the exact type of work as in the exact places Biden claims is all about by boosting a vital sector of our economy.

At the same time, they could help American consumers, not just by reducing upward pressure on gas prices. But with inflation generally, since energy is such a big component of industries costs, and at the same time as all of that they could hold Putin's economy below the waterline and strengthen America for the long term by making us energy independent again. They could have done all of that, but they chose not to.

They chose to keep American energy underground to kill American jobs and raise American prices. They chose to keep Putin's energy lifeline going. They chose to undermine our strategic position by making us dependent on foreign energy, and they lied about it nonstop.

Now, for the final humiliation, the foreign energy, they are on their knees begging for it from some of the world's worst regimes, including Iran and Venezuela, all of this in the name of climate, when the foreign energy is dirtier than U.S. natural gas, and they're closing down our nuclear power stations that don't produce carbon emissions at all.

In all my years in politics and in government, I have never seen a more stupid, incoherent, self-harming policy for more shallow, cynical, and despicable characters than this.

Tell us what you think @SteveHiltonx and @NextRevFNC and share this message when we post it.

All right, let's get back to what's going on in Ukraine. Joining me now is Brett Velicovich. He is a former U.S. Army Special Ops Intel analyst who's traveled to Ukraine with a small group of colleagues to help people out of the country.

Wow. Incredible that you've just got up and gone over there to do this. Tell us what you've been doing and how it's going.

It sounds like we've lost that feed from Ukraine, internet problems, I guess. I don't know if we can. I don't know if we can get him back. We're working on that.

Morgan Ortagus, I think is still with us.

Morgan, let's pick up where we left off in terms of what this whole fiasco, including, as I've just laid out on energy tells us about what this administration is really projecting to our allies and our enemies in terms of America's role in the world.

We keep hearing that under Biden, America is back they loved seeing that. But what are the allies and the enemies really hearing?

ORTAGUS: Well, you were hitting the nail on the head in your monologue right there on energy independence.

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital;
Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

Listen, all you have to do is go back to the campaign and the few times when Biden wasn't in his basement, when he was actually on the campaign trail. He said at least three times that I can remember that he wanted to effectively kill the American oil and gas industry. You remember in New Hampshire, he was campaigning there. I believe he said that to a little girl.

So what you're seeing today, whenever Biden says that it's Putin's fault that oil prices and gas prices are where they are today, it is just not true. The data that we saw released at the end of last week were gas is up 6.6. That's February data, that's before Putin even invaded.

What you're seeing today happen is because this administration is committed to the religion of climate change. And by the way, not solving it and what I would say a manner that most Americans can agree with technology and innovation. I think they are effectively dead set on wanting to put oil and gas industry in America out of business. They want to kill the industry, which would not make us energy independent.

We were energy independent under President Trump and that was the hallmark of our National Security as well. So it affects domestic -- from the domestic agenda, it affects the pocketbook. It also affects our own National Security, as we've seen play out, right?

HILTON: Exactly.

ORTAGUS: Since the 60s, 70s. But make no mistake about it, they want to kill this industry, that's why you're seeing where it is.

HILTON: Well, that's what we're seeing. Sorry to interrupt you briefly there, Morgan. But I mean, what we're really seeing what we've really -- everyone has woken up to the fact that energy is not some kind of side issue, a subset of economic policy, it is right at the heart of National Security of our role in the world and that's why that focus on energy independence, which was achieved, actually has ramifications for so many other policy areas.

ORTAGUS: Yes, look, and this is why the Chinese are paying close attention to this. As we've been on your show, "The Financial Times" and other newspapers had been reporting that the Russians have asked the Chinese for military assistance and this seems to be -- it seems that this has been confirmed, at least on background by the administration as well.

Steve, if that's accurate, that makes a fundamental shift in this war because the Chinese have a very big decision to make. If they do get involved and start sending military aid to Russia, I'm afraid that that changes the global dynamics in an incredibly negative way.

The Chinese also have an opportunity to sit back to help de-escalate and tell Putin, no, we're not going to help you with this failed fiasco of an invasion. So I see this -- if this news coming out of "The Financial Times" is correct, whether or not China does give military aid to Russia is one of the most important decisions that we'll see in this great power competition playing out in 2022 . It is a vital moment tonight.

HILTON: Exactly. What we're seeing, you're right, these are very serious times, if only we had serious people in the administration leading our response to it.

Morgan, thank you so much.

Stay with us. Much more up ahead.

HILTON: Here now to help us understand what is going on right now inside Russia is the author of "Putin's Playbook: Russia's Secret Plan to Defeat America." Former U.S. Intelligence officer Rebekah Koffler.

Rebekah, great to see you again. Let's start with this story that Putin has actually put the head of the FSB, the Security Service foreign intelligence branch under house arrest. What does that tell you about what's going on?

Battling Border Crisis And The Fentanyl Epidemic In The U.S.; Russian Forces Closing In On Ukrainian Capital; Russians Hit Ukrainian Military Base Near Poland;

REBEKAH KOFFLER, AUTHOR, "PUTIN'S PLAYBOOK": That's right. Putin is angry at his intelligence services for the failure to provide to him accurate information about the state of affairs and domestic policies in Ukraine.

For Putin, this is a major fiasco with him being a former KGB officer, that his intelligence services have failed them.

HILTON: Do you think this is designed to also send a message to any others or in his -- in the sort of group that is in charge of the key levers of power to say, do not think about crossing me. I've still got the power, I can lock you up.

KOFFLER: Oh, absolutely, Steve. Putin is a former KGB officer -- brutal, cold, calculating. He has authorized assassinations, poisonings of anyone who crossed him. And this is absolutely a signal to get their act together, to start really providing accurate information to enable his quote-unquote, "campaign" to de-Nazify and demilitarize Ukraine.

The propaganda is at work as always.

HILTON: And what do you think, finally, about this deal that Putin has offered, his four conditions and whether Zelenskyy should take it? Do you think this is serious and sincere from Putin that he's ready to agree, a ceasefire if those conditions are met?

KOFFLER: I don't believe we should take anything at face value coming from Putin. But at this point, Putin has escalated the conflict and he believes that he is in a strong position, although he feels cornered as a rat.

So he knows that President Zelenskyy's will is very strong to fight, but at the same time, he doesn't want to demolish Ukraine to turn it into Grozny. So a settlement of some sort is in the works, but Putin feels that he's in a stronger position, having outwitted Washington.

HILTON: That's amazing. Just very quickly, what do you think makes him think he's in a strong position?

KOFFLER: What makes him think that he is in a strong position is having the playbook that I actually described in my book, having a very unique and sophisticated nuclear strategy, having a cyber-warfare strategy, having the space warfare strategy, and having commanded -- yes, this this is actually --

Whether it is true or not this makes Putin feel cocky.

HILTON: Okay. Well, there we are, that's certainly how he is behaving.

Great to see you, Rebekah. We are out of time. Trey Gowdy is up next with another live hour and we will see you next Sunday.

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